

M: 16-12-4  
Fisher-Diggs house  
Martinsburg, Md.  
Private

c. 1900

This two story frame house has a two room plan and has a two story L attached to the rear length. Its plan resembles that of most Black landowners houses of the region of the turn of the century, though it is plainer in decorative detail.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Fisher-Diggs House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

EAST SIDE OF MARTINSBURG-DICKERSON RD.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

VICINITY OF

8

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Emma Fairfax

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

18901 Martinsburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20753

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Court House

Liber #: 4554

Folio #: 629

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M: 16-12-4

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two story frame house stands on the east side of Martinsburg Road with its facade oriented towards the west. The house is located on a small lot with a driveway on the south side of the house and a small yard surrounded by a paling fence in front. The house consists of two story principal block and two story kitchen and bedroom attached to the back length as an L.

The main block has a three bay facade: a door located on the northern side and two windows to the south. Above these openings are three windows for the upstairs. The window openings contain double hung sashes with two over two panes. They are now covered with storm windows. The frame of the house was not examined. In earlier years it was covered with weatherboards, which have now been covered over with green tarpaper insulation. The gable roof is protected by tin. Trim boards accent the corners of the house. There are no windows in either gable end, except for a small louvered opening for ventilation in the attic. Through the center of the roof ascends a brick stove flue.

In plan, of the main block, the interior consists of a two room downstairs and two up with a boxed stairway ascending the east wall of the "front room", the one into which front door opened.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>Black History</i>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

*c. 1900*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in c.1900 according to Lemuel Graham ("about when I was six years old"), who was born in Martinsburg in 1894. Deeds in the County Courthouse show that in 1906 Gilmore Green and his wife, Martha, conveyed this land to Eliza Fisher "together with the dwelling place house thereon" upon the condition that she hold the property in trust for her children by her marriage with Addie Fisher. The deed supports strongly the oral account of Lemuel Graham, which is significant since Graham is the source of so much of the dating information regarding houses in Martinsburg. (L/F: 188/255, 1906).

The wording of the deed between Gilmore and Martha Green and Eliza Fisher suggests that the Greens were kin to Eliza Fisher, perhaps parents. That possibility should be as a topic included in further historical research since Green was one of the pillars of the Black community in Martinsburg in the 1870's and 80's.

According to the present owner, Emma Diggs Fairfax, her parents (Diggs) from Frederick County, purchased this property from the Fisher family in 1944.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deeds: 4554/629; 188/255.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



Fisher - Diggs House

Facade: West length

M-16-12-4

6/78 Gum

Martinsburg, Md.

4E # 22561-1





Fisher-Diggs House  
East length (near)

m-16-12-4

Martinsburg Md.

6/78 - gum

1-19533 #35



Fisher-Diggs House

Detail of south side of well

M-16-12-4

Martinsburg, Md.

6/78 GWM

1-19533 #36